

2009-J399

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring 13-year-old Charlotte McKane of Oneonta, New York, upon the occasion of her designation as a recipient of the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Award

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those young people within the great Empire State who have made strong contributions to their communities and who serve as role models for their peers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor 13-year-old Charlotte McKane of Oneonta, New York, upon the occasion of her designation as a recipient of the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, As a state honoree, Charlotte McKane will receive a monetary award, an engraved silver medallion, and a trip to Washington, D.C., on May 2-5, 2009, for a series of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, An extraordinary honor, the Prudential Spirit of Community Award considered nearly 20,000 young people across the country for state-level recognition in this year's program; and

WHEREAS, This prestigious award was created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), and it is designed to emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others, and to encourage all young Americans to contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards represent the United States' largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteer service; the program is part of a broad youth-service initiative by Prudential that includes a youth leadership training program administered by the Points of Light Institute; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte McKane, an eighth-grader at Oneonta Middle School, built a network of monthly donors that has enabled her to purchase a significant amount of needed supplies for organizations serving the disadvantaged in her community; her project, called "Charlotte's Circle," began at age five, when she and her grandfather spent time together wrapping coins and then, at her father's suggestion, used the money to buy hygiene items and cleaning supplies for people served by the Family Service Association in Oneonta; and

WHEREAS, Intrigued by the idea of helping others, Charlotte McKane started setting aside part of her allowance and writing letters and making presentations to find additional donors; every month she contacts charitable organizations such as the Violence Intervention Program Safe House and Catholic Charities Low Income Housing Program to ascertain their needs; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte McKane then shops for the items, often persuading store managers to donate or discount their merchandise; after making her deliveries, she sends a detailed report to all of her donors documenting her purchases; more than 70 individuals and organizations have supported Charlotte's Circle since 2003; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society possessing a sense of civic duty and commitment to others, Charlotte McKane represents the best development of the potential which is inherent in our most precious resource, our youth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor 13-year-old Charlotte McKane of Oneonta, New York, upon the occasion of her designation as a recipient of the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Charlotte McKane.